

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 L-02 PRS-01 SCA-01

VO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

FBIE-00 SY-05 INSE-00 OPR-02 A-01 H-02 CPR-01 EA-06

AID-05 SSO-00 INRE-00 (ISO) W
----- 017815

O 021312Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8464

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5924

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, VS, IN

SUBJ: SOUTH VIETNAMESE CONGEN STAFF REQUEST ASYLUM

REF: NEW DELHI 5816

1. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL S. J. CHHATWAL CALLED IN FORMER SOUTH VIETNAMESE CONSUL GENERAL, VU VAN HIEU, LATE YESTERDAY AND INFORMED HIM THAT THE GOI WISHES HIEU AND HIS STAFF TO DEPART INDIAN WITHIN FIVE DAYS. CHHATWAL ALSO INFORMED HIEU THAT MEA OFFICIALS WOULD BEGIN MAY 2ND TO INVENTORY AND SEAL ALL SOUTH VIETNAMESE ASSETS IN SAIGON, PRESUMABLY WITH A VIEW TO HANDING THEM OVER TO PRG REPRESENTATIVES WHO EXPECTED TO ARRIVE DELHI ON MAY 12.

2. HIEU CALLED IN AT EMBASSY MAY 2 TO REPORT CHHATWAL'S INSTRUCTIONS. HE CLAIMED THAT CONSULATE GENERAL'S FINANCIAL SITUATION WAS ALREADY "DESPERATE," AND THAT HE WAS VERY WORRIED ABOUT THE GOI ADOPTING COERCIVE TACTICS TO FORCE HIM AND HIS STAFF OUT OF THE COUNTRY BEFORE THE PRG ARRIVE ON MAY 12. HE MENTIONED HIS CONCERN THAT THE GOI MAY EVEN HAND THOSE SOUTH VIET-
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NAMESE STAFF REMAINING HERE AFTER THE FIVE DAY DEADLINE

TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, OR, SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE PRG
MISSION AFTER ITS ARRIVAL.

3. HIEU STATED FURTHER THAT, ASSUMING VISA CLEARANCE
IMMINENT, HE WOULD LIKE TO TAP THE DELHI CONSULATE
GENERAL'S \$30,000 ACCOUNT IN NEW YORK BRANCH OF BANK
OF TOKYO TO PURCHASE AIRLINE TICKETS FOR TRAVEL TO THE
U. S. HE SAID THAT IF USG WILLING TO RELEASE SUFFICIENT
FUNDS FROM THIS ACCOUNT TO COVER TRAVEL COSTS TO U. S.
FOR TWENTY-SIX MEMBERS OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL STAFF,
PLUS TEN TO FIFTEEN OTHER SOUTH VIETNAMESE HE ESTIMATES
ARE IN INDIA, HE WOULD BE ABLE TO WRITE CHECK FOR
ENTIRE AMOUNT AND PRESENT IT TO THE EMBASSY.

4. IN VIEW OF GOI DEADLINE AND INCREASINGLY UNTENABLE
SITUATION OF FORMER SOUTH VIETNAMESE CONSULATE STAFF HERE,
REQUEST DEPARTMEN INSTRUCTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
SAXBE

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